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ABSTRACT

In November 1975, a committee of 13 editors of national surveys of educational research met in Strasbourg, Austria to: (1) report on the present state of research in each country; (2) discuss the current status of the European Documentation and Information System for Education (EUDISED) Research and Development experiment; (3) discuss procedures for improving subsequent surveys of educational research; and (4) revise the worksheet used to report survey results. This document summarizes the conference agenda; it includes a list of participants and a summary of the revisions made to the survey report worksheet. (EMH)

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Joint meeting of Editors of National Surveys of Educational Research and of members of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information

Luxembourg, 18-19 November 1975

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Participants and agenda

1. Editors of national surveys of educational research, at the invitation of the Commission of the European Communities, and members of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information, at the invitation of the Council of Europe, met in Luxembourg on 18-19 November 1975. The editors from thirteen States parties to the European Cultural Convention attended the meeting; Italy and Spain were not represented. Five Bureau members participated in the meeting. The European Communities were represented by staff members of the Commission, DG XII and DG XIII, and the Secretary of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Youth. The meeting was chaired by Mr. B. Gran, Sweden. The list of participants is given in Appendix I and the agenda adopted by the meeting in Appendix II.

Reports on the present state of the EUDISED project and of the national surveys of educational research

2. After the meeting had been opened by the Commission of the European Communities and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, the Secretariat reported on the present state of the EUDISED project, especially on the completion of the EUDISED R & D experiment and the ongoing experiments in the fields of information exchange on audio-visual educational media (EUDISED-AV) and of abstracting of scientific periodicals specialising in education (EUDISED-SP).

3. Each of the thirteen editors gave a detailed report on the present state of the national surveys of educational research in the country concerned and answered questions. Participants noted that after the publication of the 1971-72 surveys, the 1973-74 surveys had already been published or were about to be published in Austria, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. As for the United Kingdom, the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) will publish in summer 1976 a survey of ongoing research in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Data on some 2,000 projects begun in the last two years are at present being computer processed at the British Library, London, in conformity with EUDISED requirements and the publication will be for sale. The hope was expressed at the meeting that the survey could be conducted at regular intervals. Difficulties in the preparation of the surveys had arisen in Belgium and Ireland. Participants recommended - without wishing to interfere in any way in national matters - that the Belgian authorities examine whether there were possibilities within the framework of existing bilateral cultural agreements to conclude contracts to produce surveys for the French-speaking part of the country with an agency in

France already active in the field, and for the Flemish-speaking part with a similar agency in the Netherlands. In the case of Ireland it was recommended that the Education Ministry contact one of the existing research organisations for the preparation of these surveys. As for Italy, participants expressed the hope that the authorities concerned would see to it that their country joined the system once generally established. As regards the Federal Republic of Germany, the German participants reported that a proposal was at present under study whereby the computer-based current awareness lists of ongoing research would be continued at regular intervals; the Secretariat of the Education Ministers' Conference would continue to be responsible for reporting on completed research. Participants recommended a solution on these or similar lines which would ensure full coverage of educational research in the country, again without thereby wishing to interfere in national decisions.

4. Thus, the 1973-74 surveys would be prepared, published and exchanged according to the old system established by the editors at their previous annual meetings. The purpose of this meeting was to examine whether the techniques used in carrying out the EUDISED R & D experiment could be applied to the survey system: if it were possible to reach an agreement on a new modified procedure, it could be implemented for the 1975-76 and subsequent surveys from January 1976 onwards.

EUDISED R & D Worksheet 1976

5. The worksheet used for the EUDISED R & D experiment had been revised in the light of experience by Mr. J. Viet, France, and Mr. J. Linford, United Kingdom, and the new draft had been submitted to participants in document DECS/Doc (75) 26. The document was discussed in great detail. It was decided to adopt it for use in 1976 with the following modifications to the guidelines and the worksheet:

Field No. (1) Information. Guidelines: use (a) for ongoing and (b) for completed research. National agencies may use (c) for pilot projects and (d) for cancelled research.

Field No. (4) Entry No. Guidelines: indicate the national number of the project without reference to the country, this being already indicated in Field No. 3.

Field No. (5) Language(s). Guidelines: this field concerns the language in which the worksheet is written; the language should be indicated by means of the ISO code.

Field No. (6) Microfiche. Guidelines: use (a) if an extended abstract of the project and (b) if an extended description of it is available on microfiche.

Fields Nos (7) & (8) Researcher(s) and Research Supervisor(s). Guidelines: give all first names in full, no initials.

Field No. (9) Institution where the research is/was carried out. Guidelines and worksheet: insert "s" after "institution" to provide for listing several institutions if appropriate and translate name of institution(s) into English or French where necessary.

Field No. (13) Research title translated. Worksheet: omit the words "where appropriate".

Field No. (14) Abstract. Guidelines and worksheet:

(a) List on the worksheet the five categories one after the other on one line. Indicate in the guidelines that these five categories should be used as far as appropriate, but that in all cases the categories: aims, methods and results ought to be used (results, of course, only in the case of completed research). The abstract should be broken down into paragraphs for each category used.

(b) Guidelines: the abstract may be written with EUDISED descriptors embedded in the text or as a free abstract. The first alternative is to be preferred. If a free abstract is given, the EUDISED descriptors have to be inserted in Field (16), first in English and then, in a separate paragraph, in French.

(c) Guidelines: the abstract may be written in any language for which a EUDISED Thesaurus version exists. If an adequate translation into English or French is available, it may be given instead of the national language abstract.

(d) Guidelines: all the EUDISED descriptors whether embedded in the text or not and independent of the language in which the abstract is written, must be inserted in Field (16), first in English and then, in a separate paragraph, in French to facilitate the preparation of both English and French descriptor indexes, as appropriate software for automatic language separation is not yet available.

Field No. (15) EUDISED classification. Replace the word "classification" by "facets" in both guidelines and worksheet.

Field No. (16) EUDISED descriptors. For the time being no linking words or symbols should be used to connect the EUDISED descriptors.

Field No. (17) Other descriptors. Change guidelines and worksheet by inserting:

Field No. (17): Other terms (taken from neighbouring fields such as psychology or medicine)

Field No. (18): Specific national terms (in particular those concerning a national educational institution and needed to index a project)

Field No. (19): Other terms (to be considered in future for inclusion in the EUDISED Thesaurus)

Field No. (18) Publications. To be renumbered No. 20.

Guidelines: list publications on a project in chronological order; give author(s), title, sub-title, publisher, place of publication, date, number of pages, ISBN/ISSN where appropriate; indicate whether a microfiche version is available.

6. The Secretariat was requested to transmit the new text of the guidelines and the worksheet in sufficient copies in both English and French to all editors and national agencies concerned.

Procedure for co-operation in 1976

7. Having adopted the EUDISED R & D worksheet 1976, participants went on to discuss its application and details of their co-operation as from January 1976 onwards. A draft agreement on the following principles was reached.

7.1 Each of the editors/national agencies co-operating under this agreement will complete a worksheet for each R & D project on which they wish to provide information and send the completed worksheets at regular intervals to the British Library, London, for processing. The computer print-outs will be sent back for proof-reading to the national agency concerned which will receive the final print-outs for publication of an annual national R & D survey and/or of national current awareness lists.

7.2 The final print-outs will also be sent to the Council of Europe for publication, at its expense, of four - six EUDISED R & D Bulletins, each containing the processed data on some 300 R & D projects covering all participating countries. The Bulletin will be distributed by the national agencies. It will be free of charge in 1976 and will be on sale from 1977 onwards, the price to be discussed at a later meeting of the editors.

8. Participants being aware that this draft agreement had to be endorsed by their national authorities concerned and that further clarification of technical details was required prior to its implementation, decided that all the editors or persons representing a national agency at the meeting should reply in writing to the Secretariat to the following questions by

31 December 1975:

8.1 Is your country prepared to co-operate under this agreement ?

8.2 If "Yes," how many EUDISED R & D worksheets (approximate number) will be completed in 1976 ? (it being understood that the selection of projects to be reported on worksheets is a national matter)

8.3 In which months, approximately, in 1976 will the completed worksheets be sent to the British Library, London ? (to facilitate planning at the British Library)

8.4 How many copies of the EUDISED R & D Bulletin will be needed in 1976 for free distribution in your country ? (to facilitate budgetary and administrative provision at the Council of Europe)

The Secretariat was requested to inform all editors and national agencies concerned, as well as the British Library, of the results of this enquiry.

9. In this connection further details of co-operation in 1976 were discussed. Participants noted that data processing was carried out by computer in Vienna, Berlin, Aargau (Switzerland) and for the NFER in London. They further took note of the fact that software was not yet available to transform national tapes to meet EUDISED requirements. The offer by the Austrian and Swiss editors to examine with their authorities how far manual completion of worksheets in 1976 would be possible was gratefully accepted, and it was hoped that a satisfactory solution to this problem could also be

found for 1976 in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. However, as this could only be a temporary device, and as further agencies could soon be expected to get computer access, participants urged the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information to see to it that the editors/agencies concerned could meet in early 1976 and again in the course of the year with experts of the Working Party on EUDISED Format and Standards to examine this matter in greater detail and propose solutions. /Note by the Secretariat: the Bureau at its subsequent meeting on 20 November 1975 decided accordingly, agreed to the draft agenda proposed by the Working Party's Chairman, Mr. J. Linford, and fixed the date of the first meeting to be held on 18-19 February 1976 at the Council of Europe's Paris Office, the official invitations to be sent out by the Secretariat in due course./

10. It was realised that the majority of countries reported in their national surveys on both ongoing and completed research, whereas some countries had concentrated their surveys on ongoing research. As the selection of projects to be reported upon on worksheets was a national matter, it was felt that the majority would report on both types of research and some would only report on ongoing research. It was agreed that this problem could be left over for co-ordination at one of the future meetings of the editors: what mattered at present was to establish EUDISED R & D as such. In this context participants again drew attention to the necessity to reach an agreement on selection criteria and requested the Secretariat to submit this matter to the Educational Research Committee at its next annual meeting. The hope was expressed that the Committee would set up a working party of researchers and EUDISED experts to propose selection criteria in the course of 1977.

11. In the course of the discussion, newsletters, current awareness services and SDI services provided already by some national agencies were repeatedly mentioned. Participants welcomed these national activities which they felt to be a necessary complement to EUDISED and expressed the hope that such services would develop and spread further notwithstanding the present financial stringency.

12. The next joint meeting of the editors and of the Bureau will be held in Strasbourg on 25-26 May 1976.

The meeting, which had begun on 18 November 1975 at 9.30 am, was concluded on 19 November 1975 at 12.30 pm.

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APPENDIX I / ANNEXE I

Joint Meeting of Editors of national surveys of educational research and of Members of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information

Réunion jointe de Responsables des enquêtes nationales de recherche en matière d'éducation et de Membres du Bureau du Comité pour la Documentation et l'Information pédagogiques

LUXEMBOURG, 18-19/XI/1975

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APPENDIX II

Joint meeting of editors of national surveys of educational research and of members of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information
Luxembourg, 18-19 November 1975

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Commission of the European Communities and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe
2. Adoption of draft agenda
3. Report on the present state of the EUDISED project by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe
4. Reports on the present state of the national surveys of educational research
5. EUDISED R & D worksheet, revised draft version (see document DECS/Doc (75) 26)
6. Continuation of EUDISED R & D in 1976 in connection with the national surveys of educational research (see discussion paper, document DECS/Rech (75) 46)
7. Any other business